

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

PETERSON, Collin C. (Democrat)
Representative, 7th District, Minnesota
Elected (1990) to 102nd Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Fargo, North Dakota - 29 June 1944
Home: Detroit Lakes, Minnesota
Marital status: Divorced - 3 children
Religion: Lutheran
Education: Moorhead State U., B.A. 1966
Military: US Army National Guard, 1963-69
Profession: Accountant

Political: MN Senate, 1977-86; unsuccessful Democratic nominee for US House, 1984, 1986; unsuccessfully sought nomination for US House, 1982/1988. In 1990, defeated incumbent Rep Stangeland (R-MN) with 54% of the vote. Reelected in 1998 with 71.7% of the vote; reelected in 2000 with 69% of the vote.

Rep Peterson is considered a "prairie populist" on farm issues, but a fiscal conservative when it comes to social issues. Opposes abortion and as a state legislator played a key role on taxation and natural resource issues. He was a founding member of the "Blue Dogs," a conservative caucus of House Democrats.

In the 105th Congress, opposed providing insurance coverage of contraceptives for federal workers. Voted to end funding for US troops in Bosnia.

In the 106th Congress, voted against granting China permanent normal trade status. Voted to halt funding for US mission in Kosovo unless European nations pay more. Opposed authorizing air strikes against Yugoslavia. Also opposed setting conditions for deployment of national missile defense.

In the 107th Congress, appointed to the Canada-US Interparliamentary Group. Introduced H.R. 2201, to increase the compensation for disabled veterans who require aid and attendance; H.R. 512, to end the prohibition against overtime pay for National Guard technicians; H.R. 513, Fairness for National Guard Technicians Act; and H.R. 514, Veterans Carbon Tetrachloride Benefits Act. Opposed granting the President fast-track trade negotiating authority. Supported federalizing passenger and baggage screeners and giving the Justice Dept responsibility for airport security. Voted against expanding law enforcement authority to investigate suspected terrorists. Supported authorizing the President to use all necessary and appropriate force against terrorists and nations that aid them.

Additional: He is a singer and guitar player who often appears at fundraising events. Played the trombone in the Army National Guard. Member, Air Force Caucus. Member, National Guard and Reserve Components Congressional Members Organization.

AF Bases: None

COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE
INTELLIGENCE